Nepali Citizens in Garhwal and Kumaon Region

† 1394. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sharp rise in the number of persons coming to India from Nepal for various reasons;

(b) whether Government have any figure of the Nepali citizens coming to India every year and the persons who get settled here permanently;

(c) whether a large number of persons engaged in cultivation of vegetables like potato, tomato and peas in Garhwal and Kumaon division get settled in these border areas; whether such persons have a right to utilise civil rights such as ration card; and

(d) if not, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty, 1950 and the exemption granted under the- Passport (Entry to India) Rules 1950, Nepali citizens are exempt from the requirement of possessing passport and visa while entering into India from Nepal. They are also not required 19 raster themselves with the concerned Foreigners Registration Officer. Accordingly statistics regarding the entry (except by air) and stay of Nepali citizens in India are not maintained. Further, Nepali citizens can obtain ration cards after following the prescribed procedure.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.